



## Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Westacott Crescent**  
Name of Veteran: H. Westacott  
Rank: Sub-Lieutenant, Lieutenant  
Ship Served: HMS Ajax  
Date of Service on Ship: 1940 to 1945  
Year of Visit/Dedication: n/a  
Veteran or Family Visit: n/a  
Veteran of the Battle of the River Plate: No      Died at Battle: No

H. Westacott joined the Royal Navy on April 3, 1934. On his record is an 'FAA' reference, standing for Fleet Air Arm, although no evidence of aircraft training was found. On April 11, 1937 he was promoted to acting Sub-Lieutenant.

On July 11, 1940 Westacott joined HMS Ajax as a Sub-Lieutenant in the Gunnery division, later being promoted to a Lieutenant. He was on the Ajax during the Battle of the Strait of Otranto in the Mediterranean on October 12, 1940. At this battle the Ajax sank two Italian destroyers, the Airone and Ariel, and badly damaged the Artigliere. The Artigliere was sunk by HMS York the next day. Unfortunately thirteen Ajax crew members were killed that day.

On April 3, 1942 Westacott was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and transferred to HMS Abdiel, on which he became second in command. This ship was a minelayer. It blew up and sank at Taranto in Southern Italy on September 10, 1943, with the loss of six officers and forty two ratings.

Between 1943 and 1944 H. Westacott's name appears on the crew list of HMS Asbury as Lieutenant Commander. The Asbury was known as a 'Stone Frigate', a building, and was in Asbury Park, New Jersey. It housed Royal Navy personnel staying in the United States while they awaited transfer to another ship.